



Volume 9: Edition 1, January 2011

[Click here to view City News online](#)

## Mankato city offices to close tomorrow; reopen Monday, January 3



Intergovernmental Center, 10 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato.

The city of Mankato offices will close Friday, December 24 and will reopen Monday, January 3 due to employee time-off without pay as a result of budget reductions. This time period was selected in an effort to cause the least amount of inconvenience to residents.

Animals are not being held until the Animal Impound reopens

Monday, January 3. If there is an emergency involving an animal, please call 911.

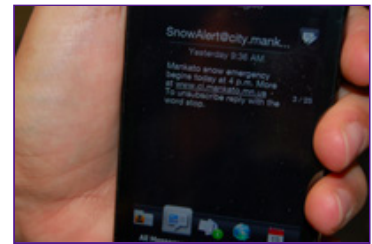
Mankato's 24-hour services remain available as usual:

- Public safety police and fire emergencies: call 911
- Water: 507-387-8661
- Snow emergencies: 507-387-9001
- Street maintenance: 507-345-0600
- Graffiti hotline: 507-387-8610
- File a police report online: [ci.mankato.mn.us](http://ci.mankato.mn.us)
- Complete a customer service request: [ci.mankato.mn.us](http://ci.mankato.mn.us)

Although city offices will be closed, since Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on a Saturday, customer's garbage and recycling service will not be affected.

## Avoid being towed -- sign up for snow emergency alerts

During the week of December 27, Mankato's snow removal crews are focusing their efforts on clearing excess snow at intersections. They will also be hauling out snow from cul-de-sacs. Staff is using specialized snow blowing equipment to widen streets--starting with major roads, then residential areas and sidewalks and trails as time permits.



Sign up for snow emergency text message alerts delivered to your cell phone.

Crews are keeping a close eye on the weather forecast and will adjust their work load accordingly as the weather changes. Staff's goal is to apply an anti-icing on the streets before snow falls and ice forms because anti-icing helps return streets to normal driving conditions faster and minimizes the need for overtime.

Public safety tips and regulations for safe driving during the winter season include:

- making sure front and back vehicle license plates are not obstructed
- clearing snow and ice from rear and side windows of vehicles

Be one of the first to know about snow emergencies in Mankato, [subscribe](#) to receive snow emergency alerts by text message. Additional ways to learn all the latest about snow emergencies in Mankato:

- [Subscribe](#) to receive city news updates by email
- [Subscribe](#) to receive notifications about Mankato's snow emergency messages on Facebook.
- [Subscribe](#) to Mankato's snow emergency

For more information [contact](#) City Manager Patrick Hentges at 507-387-8695.

## Mankato recognized for housing efforts

The city of Mankato was recognized during the national Rural Housing Conference for its work in helping to build Mankato as a sustainable community through its housing programs. Mankato's housing opportunities include programs for [affordable rental](#), [family sufficiency](#), [home ownership](#) and [choice vouchers](#).

"Over the last decade, it's communities like Brattleboro, Vermont and Mankato, Minn. that have proven that with the right tools and the right partners, we can house anyone," said Shaun Donovan, secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

[Read](#) the complete speech.

For more information [contact](#) Paul Vogel, community development director, at 507-387-8613.

## Recycle your Christmas tree



Recycle your Christmas tree between December 26 and January 10.

Residents may recycle their Christmas trees from Sunday, December 26 through Monday, January 10 by

bringing trees to one of four Mankato [parks](#): Erlandson Park, Highland Park, Tourtellotte Park and Sibley Park. Recycled trees are used as mulch in Mankato's parks. Christmas tree recycling is a value-added opportunity to Mankato's garbage and recycling service.

Before recycling your tree don't forget to:

- Remove all wire and metal ornaments.
- Remove all tree stands.
- Remove plastic bags from trees and take bags home.

Another option available to Mankato residents is the SMC Compost Site, 57032 231st Lane. Christmas trees

messages on Twitter.

[Learn](#) more about Mankato's snow and ice control efforts. [Learn](#) more about Mankato's snow emergencies by watching City Update online or on public access television channels 10

(HickoryTech) or 12 (Charter):

- Sundays at 6 a.m.
- Mondays at 8:35 p.m.
- Tuesdays at 7:45 a.m.
- Wednesdays 12:35 p.m.
- Thursdays at 9:50 p.m.
- Fridays at 4:50 p.m.
- Saturdays at 6:20 p.m.

For emergency snow removal questions call 911. For all the latest about snow emergencies in Mankato call 507-387-9001, 24-hour service.

## Honor Guard and Boy Scouts to present special city flag and U.S. flag on January 10

A city of Mankato flag and a U.S. flag were mailed to City Engineer Jeff Johnson, who left Mankato to serve in Afghanistan for a year. These flags were flown in Afghanistan on December 12. Johnson brought the flags back to Mankato during a short break. Now, those flags will be in the Mankato City Council chambers at the Intergovernmental Center, 10 Civic Center Plaza.

These flags will be presented by the American Legion Post 11 Color Guard and Boy Scout troop 4 at 7 p.m., Monday, January 10 at the first City Council meeting of the year.

"It was an opportunity to have these flags flow in Afghanistan," Johnson said. "When people see these flags on display, they will be reminded of those who have served our nation, past and present."

## Richard Salet Trust contributes \$10,000 to Sibley Park



During a snow emergency there is no parking on Mankato streets so snow can be removed quickly and efficiently.

are accepted Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This service is available at no cost for Mankato residents. For more information call 507-388-3122.

For more information about Christmas tree recycling, [contact](#) public works staff at 507-387-8649.

## Announcing the Employee and Supervisor of the Year



*Troy Paulson, 2010 Employee of the Year.*

Compassionate, pleasant and involved describes Troy Paulson, building inspector and city of Mankato 2010 employee of the year. Paulson is known for going out of his way to help citizens and coworkers. He goes above and beyond in his work and

continuously looks for opportunities to improve service throughout the city. Paulson is an enthusiastic team and community member. He also serves as a part-time fighter for the city.

Paulson has nine and a half years of service with the city of Mankato.

Mark Konz, planning coordinator, has been named the city of Mankato's 2010 Supervisor of the Year. Konz was recognized for leading the way in customer service by providing genuine internal and external customer service. He takes the time to



*Mark Konz, 2010 Supervisor of the Year.*

contact citizens and work with them one-on-one to help resolve any challenges. Konz shares ideas that help increase efficiency while saving time and also is open to input from coworkers across the organization.

Konz has nine years of service with the city of Mankato.



*Sibley Farm is located in Mankato's Sibley Park, 900 Mound Avenue.*

contribution helps give others the continued opportunity to enjoy Sibley Park just as Richard Salet and his family did.

What will your legacy be? Contribute to Mankato's quality of life and help to make a difference in the future of our community.

If interested in contributing to Mankato's quality of life, [contact](#) City Manager Patrick Hentges at 507-387-8695.

## Positive adult influence makes a difference



*Police liaison Tom Rother.*

The influence of parents and adults on a teenager is greater than that of a youth's peers. Experts teach us that young people rank parents, family members and caring adults among the top reasons for not using alcohol.

In fact, teenagers rank these positive adults higher than friends and peer pressure when making decisions. [Listen](#) to public safety's message and make a difference for a teenager today.

## Connect with Council and City Manager

The Mankato City Council and Mankato City Manager Patrick Hentges are on [Facebook](#). Stay connected with your city leaders and become a fan today.

For more information, [contact](#) public information staff

## Here to serve you



Download the "Here to serve you" brochure.

The "[Here to serve you](#)" brochure provides helpful contact information for the city of Mankato and Mankato Area Public Schools as well as useful 24-hour phone numbers. Look for it

in utility bills or access it online.

For more information [contact](#) public information staff at 507-387-8692.

## Make a green choice with online utility billing

Save money, time and also help the environment by [signing up](#) for Mankato's online utility billing services. Residents who sign up will:

- save \$2 each month by signing up to have utility bill paid using electronic fund transfer.
- save \$1 each month by using the city's paperless billing option.



Sign up for Mankato's online utility billing and save. Call 507-387-8672 for more information.

To sign up, [contact](#) city of Mankato staff at 507-387-8672, or [fill out](#) an online application and mail to:

City of Mankato  
Water Billing  
Intergovernmental Center  
10 Civic Center Plaza  
P.O. Box 3368  
Mankato, MN 56002-3368

For more information, [contact](#) city of Mankato staff at

at 507-387-8516.

## Help us help you – adopt a fire hydrant

The latest snowstorm buried many of the city's fire hydrants. Help us help you by adopting a fire hydrant to keep it clear of snow. Doing so helps give firefighters efficient access in the event of a fire that can help save lives. Every second counts when firefighters respond to a fire. Time can be lost trying to find buried hydrants and digging them out of the snow so that a fire hose may be hooked up.

Although hydrants are designed to break off if hit, sometimes they can break. The cost to repair a broken hydrant can range from \$600 to a few thousand dollars depending on the type of damage.

For more information [contact](#) staff with the Mankato Department of Public Safety at 507-387-8792; or to report a damaged fire hydrant [contact](#) public works staff at 507-387-8660.

## What's "your take" on Mankato volunteer opportunities?

Adopting a fire hydrant is one way residents can contribute to and enhance Mankato's quality of life. [Give](#) "your take" on other ways citizens can help build community by volunteering for the city of Mankato.

## Mankato's ice rinks open

Many of Mankato's ice rinks are ready for use, providing an opportunity for outdoor winter fun. The heavy snowfall has impacted the opening of the Thomas Park ice rink. Public works staff are making every effort to open this rink by January 1.

Hockey rinks feature a push-button lighting system for electrical efficiency and a full set of hockey boards at Stoltzman Road, Alexander Park and Thomas parks.

### Where to skate

Alexander Park (lighted)  
900 Main Street



507-387-8672.

## Stay safe -- get involved with public safety

### Keep the wreath bright...prevent a red light

The Mankato Department of Public Safety's "Keep the wreath bright...prevent a red light" campaign only has a few weeks left.

A red bulb means that firefighters have responded to a structure fire. Help prevent a red light bulb from being placed at the wreath at Fire Station 1, 300 Madison Avenue, by practicing fire safety.

For more information about fire safety tips, [contact](#) public safety staff at 507-387-8577.

### Apply to serve as a volunteer firefighter

Applications are still being accepted for those interested in serving as a volunteer firefighter with the city of Mankato.

[Applications](#) are due by Friday, December 31. If interested in applying, or for more information [contact](#) public safety staff at 507-387-8792.

### Become a Mankato Police Explorer

The deadline for accepting letters of interest for the city of Mankato's Police Explorers youth group has been extended. Students and young adults in grade nine through the age of 20 who have an interest in law enforcement are encouraged to [submit](#) a letter online by the end of the month.

For more information about the city of Mankato Police Explorers [contact](#) public safety staff at 507-420-9147.

## Capture Mankato's winter spaces and places

- \* hockey rink
- \* general ice skating rink

Dotson Park  
1010 Oak Knoll Boulevard

- \* general ice skating rink

Erlandson Park  
101 North Belmont Drive

- \* general ice skating rink

Stoltzman Road Park (lighted)  
521 West Pleasant Street

- \* hockey rink
- \* general ice skating rink

Thomas Park (lighted), expected to open in January  
100 Thomas Park Court

- \* hockey rink (Mankato Area Hockey Association priority use )

Ice rinks are available for use at no cost. No hockey is allowed on general ice skating rinks. For more information contact public works staff at 507-387-8649.

## Dates to keep in mind

The city of Mankato offices will be closed on Monday, January 17 in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Although city offices will be closed, garbage and recycling will not be affected.

For more information [contact](#) public works staff at 507-387-8649.

## 24-hour city services

Public safety: 911  
Customer service [online](#)  
Graffiti hotline: 507-387-8610  
Street maintenance request: 507-345-0600  
[File](#) a police report online  
Snow emergencies: 507-387-9001  
Water: 507-387-8661



Download an entry form and enter Mankato's 2012 city calendar contest today.

The wintry weather makes now a great time to capture this season's photos of Mankato's places and spaces for Mankato's 2012 city calendar. [Download](#) an entry form.

Did you get your 2011 city calendar? The calendar is available [online](#) or at the Intergovernmental Center, 10 Civic Center Plaza.

[View](#) this year's winners. For more information about the contest or to receive a city calendar, [contact](#) Mankato's public information staff at 507-387-8692.

## Your destination on time



Mankato's city bus--your destination on time. Call 507-387-RIDE (7433).

507-625-RIDE (7433).

Mankato's city bus provides convenient, reliable and affordable transportation. [Learn](#) more about Mankato's city buses and [see](#) routes online, or call

Advertise on a city bus and have your ad seen throughout Mankato. For more information [contact](#) Mankato's mass transit office at 507-387-8655.

## Upcoming events at the Verizon Wireless Center



Verizon Wireless Civic Center, 1 Civic Center Plaza.

[MSU Maverick Men's Hockey vs. American International](#)  
Friday, January 7 through Saturday, January 8

[MSU Maverick Men's Hockey vs.](#)

[Denver](#)

Friday, January 14 through Saturday, January 15

[Farm and Antique Toy Show](#)

Saturday, January 29 through Sunday, January 30

Sign up for [EventMail](#) to receive information about upcoming events at the [Verizon Wireless Civic Center](#).

[Editor](#)

507-387-8692

Printable newsletter file

